

Silver iodide

Silver iodide is an inorganic compound with the formula AgI. The compound is a bright yellow solid, but samples almost always contain impurities of metallic silver that give a gray coloration. The silver contamination arises because AgI is highly photosensitive. This property is exploited in silver-based photography. Silver iodide is also used as an antiseptic and in cloud seeding.

Contents

Structure

Preparation and properties

Cloud seeding

Safety

References

Structure

The structure adopted by silver iodide is temperature dependent:^[2]

- Below 420 K, the β-phase of AgI, with the wurtzite structure, is most stable. This phase is encountered in nature as the mineral iodargyrite.
- Above 420 K, the α-phase becomes more stable. This motif is a body-centered cubic structure which has the silver centers distributed randomly between 6 octahedral, 12 tetrahedral and 24 trigonal sites.^[3] At this temperature, Ag⁺ ions can move rapidly through the solid, allowing fast ion conduction. The transition between the β and α forms represents the melting of the silver (cation) sublattice. The entropy of fusion for α-AgI is approximately half that for sodium chloride (a typical ionic solid). This can be rationalized by considering the AgI crystalline lattice to have already "partly melted" in the transition between α and β polymorphs.
- A metastable γ-phase also exists below 420 K with the zinc blende structure.



The golden-yellow crystals on this mineral sample are iodargyrite, a naturally occurring form of β-AgI.

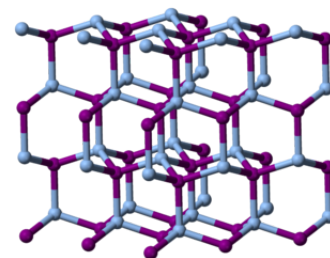
Preparation and properties

Silver iodide is prepared by reaction of an iodide solution (e.g., potassium iodide) with a solution of silver ions (e.g., silver nitrate). A yellowish solid quickly precipitates. The solid is a mixture of the two principal phases. Dissolution of the AgI in hydroiodic acid, followed by dilution with water precipitates β-AgI. Alternatively, dissolution of AgI in a solution of concentrated silver nitrate followed by dilution affords α-AgI.^[4] If the preparation is not conducted in the absence of sunlight, the solid darkens rapidly, the light causing the reduction of ionic silver to metallic. The photosensitivity varies with sample purity.

Cloud seeding

The crystalline structure of β-AgI is similar to that of ice, allowing it to induce freezing by the process known as heterogeneous nucleation. Approximately 50,000 kg are used for cloud seeding annually, each seeding experiment consuming 10–50 grams.^[5] (see also Project Stormfury)

Silver iodide



Names

Other names

Silver(I) iodide

Identifiers

CAS Number	7783-96-2 (http://www.commonchemistry.org/ChemicalDetail.aspx?ref=7783-96-2) ✓
3D model (JSmol)	Interactive image (https://chemapps.stolaf.edu/jmol/jmol.php?model=%5BAg%5DI)
ChemSpider	22969 (http://www.chemspider.com/Chemical-Structure.22969.html) ✓
ECHA InfoCard	100.029.125 (https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.029.125)
EC Number	232-038-0
PubChem CID	6432717 (https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Silver-iodide)



Cessna 210 equipped with a silver iodide generator for cloud seeding

Safety

Extreme exposure can lead to **argyria**, characterized by localized discoloration of body tissue.^[6]

References

- Zumdahl, Steven S. (2009). *Chemical Principles 6th Ed.* Houghton Mifflin Company. p. A23. ISBN 978-0-618-94690-7.
- Binner, J. G. P.; Dimitrakis, G.; Price, D. M.; Reading, M.; Vaidhyanathan, B. (2006). "Hysteresis in the β - α Phase Transition in Silver Iodine" (<http://www.sump4.com/publications/paper047.pdf>) (PDF). *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry*. **84** (2): 409–412. CiteSeerX 10.1.1.368.2816 (<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/summary?doi=10.1.1.368.2816>). doi:10.1007/s10973-005-7154-1 (<https://doi.org/10.1007%2Fs10973-005-7154-1>).
- Hull, Stephen (2007). "Superionics: crystal structures and conduction processes" (<http://stacks.iop.org/RoPP/67/1233>). *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **67** (7): 1233–1314. doi:10.1088/0034-4885/67/7/R05 (<https://doi.org/10.1088%2F0034-4885%2F67%2F7%2FR05>).
- O. Glemser, H. Saur "Silver Iodide" in Handbook of Preparative Inorganic Chemistry, 2nd Ed. Edited by G. Brauer, Academic Press, 1963, NY. Vol. 1. p. 1036-7.
- Phyllis A. Lyday "Iodine and Iodine Compounds" in Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2005. doi:10.1002/14356007.a14_381 (https://doi.org/10.1002%2F14356007.a14_381)
- "Silver Iodide" (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/search/a?dbs+hsdb:@term+@DOCNO+2930>). *TOXNET: Toxicogy Data Network*. U.S. National Library of Medicine. Retrieved 9 March 2016.

	ubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/6432717)
UNII	81M6Z3D1XE (https://fdasis.nlm.nih.gov/srs/srsdirect.jsp?regno=81M6Z3D1XE) ✓
CompTox Dashboard (EPA)	DTXSID0064836 (https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/DTXSID0064836) 🔗
InChI	InChI=1S/Ag.HI/h;1H/q+1;/p-1 ✓ Key: MSFPLIAKTHOCQP-UHFFFAOYSA-M ✓ InChI=1/Ag.HI/h;1H/q+1;/p-1 Key: MSFPLIAKTHOCQP-REWHXWOFAV
SMILES	[Ag]I
Properties	
Chemical formula	AgI
Molar mass	234.77 g/mol
Appearance	yellow, crystalline solid
Odor	odorless
Density	5.675 g/cm ³ , solid
Melting point	558 °C (1,036 °F; 831 K)
Boiling point	1,506 °C (2,743 °F; 1,779 K)
Solubility in water	3 × 10 ⁻⁷ g/100mL (20 °C)
Solubility product (<i>K</i> _{sp})	8.52 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
Magnetic susceptibility (χ)	−80.0·10 ^{−6} cm ³ /mol
Structure	
Crystal structure	hexagonal (β -phase, < 147 °C) cubic (α -phase, > 147 °C)
Thermochemistry	
Std molar entropy (<i>S</i> [⊖] ₂₉₈)	115 J·mol ^{−1} ·K ^{−1} [1]
Std enthalpy of formation ($\Delta_f H^\ominus_{298}$)	−62 kJ·mol ^{−1} [1]
Hazards	
Safety data sheet	Sigma-Aldrich (http://www.sigmaaldrich.com)

